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FOR INFORMATION

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON ITS WINTER ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS ON 9 AND 10 FEBRUARY 1993

CONTENTS

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
I.	ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	1 - 5	3
II.	PLENARY MEETINGS	6 - 71	4
	A. Introduction by the Chairman	6	4
	B. Overview of key developments by the Executive Director	7 - 15	4
	C. Major issues before the 1993 regular session	16 - 35	6
	1. Programme issues	17 - 26	6
	2. Operational issues	27 - 35	8
	D. UNICEF Maurice Pate Award	36 - 37	10
	E. Preparations for the 1993 regular session	38 - 68	10
	1. Status of documentation	38 - 39	10
	2. Background paper on future work and procedures of the Executive Board/Chairman's proposal on Board procedure	40 - 48	11

CONTENTS (continued)

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
	3. Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work	49 - 63	13
	4. Themes of informal meetings	64 - 68	15
	F. Other business	69 - 71	15
III.	DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 1993 ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION		16

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) held its 1993 winter organizational session at United Nations Headquarters on 9 and 10 February. Officers of the Executive Board for the period 1 August 1992 to 31 July 1993 are as follows:

Chairman:	Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada)
First Vice-Chairman:	Miss Maymouna Diop (Senegal)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Dr. Vaclav Vacek (Czech Republic)*
Third Vice-Chairman:	H.E. Dr. Jayaraj Acharya (Nepal)
Fourth Vice-Chairman:	H.E. Dr. Lucille Mair (Jamaica)
Chairman, Programme Committee:	H.E. Dr. Roberto Mayorga-Cortés (Nicaragua)
Vice-Chairman, Programme Committee:	Vacant
Chairman, Committee on Administration and Finance:	Ms. Birte Poulsen (Denmark)
Vice-Chairman, Committee on Administration and Finance:	Miss Khadijatu Mansaray (Sierra Leone)

2. Before adopting the provisional agenda for the session, the Executive Board added a new item, election of a member of the Bureau. Because of the recent separation of the former Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on 1 January 1993, Czechoslovakia had ceased to be a member of the Executive Board, and the Second Vice-Chairman, Dr. Vaclav Vacek, could no longer serve in that capacity. After the Czech Republic was admitted to the United Nations in January 1993, it was elected by the Economic and Social Council to fill the vacancy on the Executive Board. The Central and Eastern European group of Board members had advised the Chairman that Dr. Vacek was its candidate for the post of Second Vice-Chairman and the Executive Board re-elected Dr. Vacek to the post.

3. The Executive Board adopted the agenda of the 1993 winter organizational session, as amended, which, along with the list of documents for the session, is contained in document E/ICEF/1993/L.1.

4. The Chairman advised the Executive Board that the Vice-Chairman of the Programme Committee, Dr. Syed Mohsin Ali (Pakistan) had been re-assigned to other duties by his Government and was no longer able to serve on the Bureau. The Chairman requested the Asian group of Board members to select a replacement as soon as possible. If a candidate could be nominated before the regular Board session, the election could be done by a mail poll and the new Vice-Chairman

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* Re-elected. See paragraph 2.

would be able to participate in the Bureau meeting preceding the regular session. The other option would be to hold the election on the first day of the April session. The Chairman requested the Asian group to keep the secretariat informed of any developments.

5. The Executive Board held three plenary meetings on 9 and 10 February 1993.

II. PLENARY MEETINGS

A. Introduction by the Chairman

6. The Chairman reported that recently he had visited the UNICEF-assisted programmes in China and India. He said that he would report fully on those visits at the regular session in April, but wanted to share some of the highlights with the Board. In both countries, he had seen the UNICEF programmes as being catalytic, because relatively small contributions by UNICEF in time and money were multiplied by the Governments. Historically, both programmes had focused on the areas of health and water supply and sanitation, although there was now a shift to primary education. In both programmes, it appeared that most resources had been used for service delivery, but there was a shift of resources to capacity-building. A significant increase in supplementary funding would be required if the programmes were to succeed, however. The programmes in China and India were part of a changing dynamic, and the Executive Board was also part of that change.

B. Overview of key developments by the Executive Director

7. The Executive Director presented an overview relevant to UNICEF in the period between September 1992 and February 1993. He said the past few months had been a period of both "perils and promise".

8. One of the major "perils" was the fact that emergencies had become much more intensive than had been expected at the time of the 1992 regular Executive Board session. Then, there had been hope for the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, there was a breakdown of order affecting the civilian population in Somalia and the situation in the former Soviet Union was more serious than expected. The world community expected the United Nations to act in such situations, even when doing so put staff at risk, and more UNICEF staff had been killed in the last year than in the previous few years. The United Nations was expected to function where law and order did not.

9. At the same time, there was also a new willingness on the part of the international community to respond to emergencies. The Security Council had taken unprecedented action in authorizing the large-scale operation in Somalia, which for the first time was a recognition of peoples' right to food. That development represented a major challenge to UNICEF and to the United Nations. It was extremely fortunate that the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) had been established in early 1992, but it was already tested to the limit.

10. Another "peril" was the continuing recession in industrialized countries, which was affecting funding for UNICEF. Two major donors had reduced their

levels of official development assistance (ODA) and, as a result, their contributions to UNICEF. There had been no progress on debt relief for sub-Saharan Africa, even though the proportion of African debt was three times greater than that of Latin America.

11. As for "promise", the ethos that the international community must be concerned with the survival and well-being of children had continued to advance. The actions taken in Somalia to feed the starving were a marked contrast to what had happened in Calcutta, India, in 1944, when 1.5 million people had died while the grain stores were full. At that time, if people could not pay for food, the Government did not see that it had an obligation to feed them.

12. Another positive development was that the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been ratified by 129 countries, and another 30 countries had signalled their intention to do so. With regard to meeting the goals set by the World Summit for Children, countries had worked to meet their commitments to complete national programmes of action (NPAs) by 1992. There had been several major regional consultations at the ministerial level: the International Conference on Assistance to African Children (ICAAC) held in Dakar, Senegal, in November 1992, and organized by the Organization of African Unity; the Conference on Children's Welfare, Protection and Development held by the League of Arab States in Tunis, Tunisia, in November; the 19-country Latin American regional meeting convened by Mexico in November; and the Conference on Children in South Asia organized by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in September. The major conclusions of those meeting were that NPAs need to be refined so as to be more relevant to budgetary considerations, that they should be expanded to the state and municipal level and that there should be intermediate goals set for mid-decade. At ICAAC, it was agreed that external funding to meet the goals should be equivalent to 20 per cent of ODA. The Summit goals could be achieved if Governments restructured ODA to meet priority human needs.

13. UNICEF income for 1992 was more than $900 million, some $75 million greater than estimated in the medium-term plan. The increase was due largely to increased funding for emergencies.

14. The Executive Director said UNICEF mourned the deaths of Goodwill Ambassador Audrey Hepburn, who had made a "marvelous contribution to the cause of children", and of Dr. Saburo Okita, Chairman of the Japan Committee for UNICEF. At the request of the Executive Director, the Executive Board observed a moment of silence in their honour.

15. Regarding the issue of UNICEF headquarters office accommodation (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.9), the Executive Director said that sites both in and outside New York City had been considered. The City of New Rochelle had made an offer that would result in major cost savings, but the location away from United Nations Headquarters would cause problems. The City of New York had made a major counter offer worth $90 million. As a result, he would recommend to the Executive Board that UNICEF move forward with the offer from New York City to remain in the City. Under the terms of that offer, UNICEF House and another building, yet to be selected, would become the property of UNICEF.

C. Major issues before the 1993 regular session

16. The Executive Board had before it document EB/1993/001 and Add.1, "Issues for the 1993 Executive Board session", which summarized the range of programme and operational issues to be discussed by the Board.

1. Programme issues

17. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, identified six major areas to be discussed by the Programme Committee:

(a) The 24 country programme recommendations (12 short-form and 12 full-length) and 20 various other recommendations (bridging programmes, requests for additional general resources, "stand-alone" supplementary funding requests) being presented for approval. The country programmes are at the heart of the work of UNICEF;

(b) Follow-up to the World Summit for Children. There had been encouraging progress in this area, as witnessed in the number of NPAs already completed or under preparation, the political commitment expressed at the various regional meetings, the establishment of mid-term goals and the continuing support for the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(c) Emergency operations. The rapid growth in the number and complexity of emergencies had considerable implications for UNICEF, as they were occurring on a scale not seen since the 1940s. In 1992, UNICEF emergency expenditure amounted to some $170 million, or 24 per cent of total programme expenditure. In contrast, in 1990, emergency expenditures were $50 million, or 8 per cent of total programme expenditure. The report to be presented to the Executive Board (E/ICEF/1993/11) identified a number of policy issues that the Executive Board might wish to consider, including the scale and amount of resources devoted to emergencies. While emergencies had caused some 1 million child deaths in the last year, other "silent" emergencies had resulted in 12.5 million child deaths;

(d) The various policy papers and progress reports being presented to the Board, including those on ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa (E/ICEF/1993/L.4); the Bamako Initiative (E/ICEF/1993/L.6); the situation of children and women in Central and Eastern Europe (E/ICEF/1993/L.7); the UNICEF policy on family planning (E/ICEF/1993/L.5); programmes for the urban poor (E/ICEF/1993/L.9); children, environment and development (E/ICEF/1993/L.2); and on health-related issues including the Children's Vaccine Initiative (E/ICEF/1993/L.3), the UNICEF response to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (E/ICEF/1993/L.10) and the report of the UNICEF/World Health Organization Joint Committee on Health Policy (E/ICEF/1993/L.11);

(e) The proposed global funds programme recommendation (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3 and Add.1);

(f) The response of UNICEF to General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, on United Nations operational activities for development. The

resolution provided an important framework for collaborative activities, and as required by the resolution, UNICEF would prepare a report on its response to the Executive Board (E/ICEF/1993/L.8 and Add.1).

18. Concerning the area of children and the environment, one delegation asked if UNICEF was proposing it as an area of major expansion. If that were the case, his Government hoped that UNICEF would advise the Board of the areas that would be downgraded to make room for the expansion. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, replied that no major expansion was proposed. Several years ago, the Board had requested that issues relating to children and the environment be included in country programmes, but that special programmes not be established. The report would be true to Agenda 21 but would not propose activities requiring major new expenses.

19. The same delegation said that it shared the concerns of UNICEF about emergencies and would like to see the consequences of UNICEF emergency work for long-term development, as well as examples of the relationship between DHA and UNICEF in the field. As for the decrease in non-emergency supplementary funding, he hoped the Executive Director would outline proposals for reducing reserves to compensate.

20. Regarding the paper to be presented to the Executive Board on family planning, he hoped that the Executive Director would present a number of options.

21. The same speaker also hoped that the proposed global funds budget would include a full justification of why this particular programme mechanism was required. By this he did not mean an explanation of global funds, but rather a fundamental justification of why global funds were used instead of country programmes. His Government did see the usefulness of global funds, but was not sure if their use represented good value for the money and if they were used to cut across the priorities of recipient Governments.

22. The Deputy Executive Director replied that he hoped the global funds programme recommendation would show why the mechanism was required. Universal child immunization would not have been achieved without assistance from global funds, for example. The amount of global funds used at headquarters was 3 per cent of total programme expenditure.

23. Another speaker asked about the UNICEF response to General Assembly resolution 47/100 of 16 December 1992 on the United Nations system-wide Plan of Action on Drug Abuse Control. The resolution required that agencies report to their governing bodies by 1 March on implementation of the resolution and the speaker asked if the response would be included in the report of the Executive Director. The Deputy Executive Director replied that the Executive Director would include a brief discussion of the issue in his report. It had been agreed previously that drug abuse control would not be a major part of UNICEF cooperation, but in some country programmes there were elements on issues such as general advocacy and smoking.

24. One delegation welcomed the active follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199. The addendum to the "issues paper" showed that the UNICEF response to the resolution was under way. Any discussion by the Executive Board on the

resolution and on the economic and social reform of the United Nations would be useful, but any follow-up action would have to be taken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Any decision by the Executive Board in those areas would have to be taken with great caution.

25. The Deputy Executive Director said that UNICEF was working actively in a number of areas to implement resolution 47/199. UNICEF was exploring with members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) the costs of a more rapid move to a wider range of common premises. As for the harmonization of programme cycles, two thirds of countries where the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF had programmes had a common programme cycle. The International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme were project-based and so could not be included in the common cycle. UNICEF was pursuing with JCGP the issue of programme approaches so there could be a more coherent set of programme approaches by the United Nations. UNICEF, together with UNFPA, had the most serious programme approach and wanted to protect it, as well as its decentralized approach. UNICEF had been the first agency to suggest the use of the country strategy note discussed in resolution 47/199.

26. With regard to the recent evaluation of UNICEF, the same speaker said that a dialogue by the Executive Board on the evaluation would have a positive effect on the Board's discussion of the reform of the United Nations. Another speaker added that her Government was in favour of improved cooperation between UNICEF and other United Nations agencies and that duplication should be avoided.

2. Operational issues

27. The Deputy Executive Director, Operations, provided an overview of the major operational issues facing the Executive Board. With regard to UNICEF finances, she said that while 1992 had been a landmark year for UNICEF income, 1993 would pose a challenge to the organization. Some countries would have to reduce their contributions to general resources, a situation that was compounded by the strengthening of the United States dollar. However, some Governments had increased their general resources contributions, which hopefully would help to offset the decreases. It was expected that total general resources would be the same or slightly higher in 1993 than in 1992. The financial medium-term plan (E/ICEF/1993/3) would present projections for the period 1993-1995 that were lower than last year's projections. UNICEF planned to use the current liquidity in general resources to maintain programme expenditure. Expenditures would exceed income as liquidity was reduced to the required 10 per cent. Indications were that contributions to non-emergency supplementary funding would increase and that total programme expenditure for the period 1994-1995 would be $40 million higher than planned.

28. With regard to the 1992-1993 revised and 1994-1995 proposed administrative and programme support budget (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.1 and Corr.1 and Corr.2), the Deputy Executive Director, Operations, said the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would be able to review the budget because it had already decided to convene a special session at the end of March.

29. While the "issues paper" stated that the supplementary budget for the period 1992-1993 would be $6.3 million, the figure had been reduced to $3.9 million, which included the $3.4 million approved by the Executive Board in 1992 for programmes in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The mandatory net increase was therefore $500,000, as other mandatory increases had been offset by savings.

30. In preparing the proposed 1994-1995 budget, the Deputy Executive Director, Operations, said that UNICEF had implemented the decisions of the Executive Board that had been based on the work of the Budget Format Reference Group. The secretariat had taken into account the criteria for core versus project posts and the downsizing of staff at headquarters locations (the total had been reduced from 909 to 879, and New York headquarters from 660 to 627, including increases in the Office of Emergency Programmes and the Office of Internal Audit and the addition of a security officer). All existing D-1, L-6, D-2 and L-7 posts had been classified, and as a result, at headquarters there were two fewer D-1 or L-6 posts and two fewer D-2 or L-7 posts in the proposed budget. All representative posts in field offices had been classified, and it was proposed that one D-1 post be upgraded to D-2, six P-5 posts be upgraded to D-1 and one D-1 be downgraded to P-5.

31. The proposed budget showed an increase of $50.8 million (12.9 per cent) over the previous biennium, which took into account a global inflation rate of 4 per cent per year and $31.9 million in non-inflationary factors. One-time costs included a change in computer systems at headquarters; by speeding up that process, the costs in the proposed budget would be higher, but the long-term savings would be greater. The net conversion of core to project posts resulted in an increase of $4 million.

32. In addition to the budget and headquarters office accommodation, which had already been addressed by the Executive Director, another major operational issue was the Executive Director's proposal for an administrative and management study of UNICEF (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.8). If the proposal was approved, it would be presented to the Executive Board at its 1994 session.

33. One speaker said that many delegations to the Executive Board were not budgetary experts. The detailed budget document being submitted to the Board provided all the necessary information but could be somewhat difficult to understand. It was suggested that the secretariat provide an overview showing all the different UNICEF budgets, including the total income and expenditure of UNICEF. The Deputy Executive Director, Operations, replied that an information paper could be produced that would include the budgets for administrative and programme support, global funds, Greeting Card and related operations, staffing and field offices.

34. The same speaker said that in the recent evaluation of UNICEF, there were recommendations regarding financial accountability, and suggested that UNICEF work out conceptual definitions of "administrative costs" and "core functions". Another speaker suggested that the proposal for an administrative and management study of UNICEF take into account the recent evaluation of UNICEF.

35. The Deputy Executive Director, Operations, said that the issue of financial accountability had been discussed at great length within UNICEF in the past

year, and the secretariat was working on acceptable definitions. The Executive Director's proposal for the administrative and management study did refer to the recent evaluation, as its input would be useful if the Board decided to proceed with the study.

D. UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

36. The Executive Board had before it a recommendation by the Executive Director regarding the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 1992 (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.1). The Executive Director said 11 nominations had been received from all regions. While all had been highly deserving, the Bureau had recommended that the award be given to the people and the State of Ceará, Brazil, whose accomplishments were an illustration of what a very poor region could do to help itself under adverse circumstances.

37. The Executive Director said that 6 million people lived in Ceará, which was comparable in size to many countries. In 1986, a new State Government was elected and launched a programme of action in favour of women and children that was sustained even after a change in government. The new Government first conducted a survey of infant mortality and found that the major causes of child deaths were diarrhoea, pneumonia and malnutrition and that one half of the children who died had never seen a health worker. The Government then launched a major programme to give families information about breast-feeding, the need for immunization and other health-related issues. In 1987, during a severe drought, the Government was able to use the situation to its advantage by giving 6,000 emergency jobs to poor people, training them as community health workers. Some 1,700 were retained as health communicators. The programme had dramatic results: the infant and maternal mortality rates were reduced by one third. This was a striking example of how a poor region, even when affected by adversity, could make significant changes. The Board agreed with the Executive Director's recommendation and decided to present the award to the people and State of Ceará (see chap. III, decision 1993/1).

E. Preparations for the 1993 regular session

1. Status of documentation

38. The Secretary of the Executive Board briefed the Board on the status of documentation, as detailed in document E/ICEF/1993/INF/1, noting in particular that the following documents had been combined to avoid duplication: the report on emergency operations with the paper on United Nations emergency strategy and restructuring and its implications for UNICEF; and the report on the reorganization and consolidation of global funds with the global funds programme budget recommendation. Late documentation for the regular session (the report on United Nations reform and the Executive Director's comments on the recent donor evaluation of UNICEF), as well as an additional report for the present organizational session (subjects included in Executive Board agendas for 1992-1995 (E/ICEF/1993/CRP.9)), were also noted.

39. Recalling that over the years the Board has been called upon to take action to reduce documentation, one delegation expressed concern that at its

September 1992 meeting, the Bureau had requested the secretariat to prepare an interim progress report on the Bamako Initiative against the wishes of the Board. Although the delegation fully supported the Bamako Initiative and priority attention to Africa, especially in light of ICAAC, it was felt that the subject could have been dealt with under the agenda item on ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa and did not warrant a separate paper.

2. Background paper on future work and procedures of the Executive Board/Chairman's proposal on Board procedures

40. The Board had before it a background paper prepared by the secretariat on the future work and procedures of the Executive Board (E/ICEF/1993/CRP.5) and a proposal by the Chairman on Board procedures (E/ICEF/1993/CRP.6) for information and approval, respectively. The Chairman explained that the proposal had been the subject of extensive consultations and took into account views expressed that the agenda should focus on policy issues.

41. In general, delegations welcomed the Chairman's proposal, with several indicating that it addressed the main concerns of Board member delegations. However, several delegations stressed that the working methods of the Executive Board could not be seen in isolation from the ongoing discussions within the framework of the General Assembly on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. There was a need for general policy guidance by the Economic and Social Council, particularly in areas of common interest to the various agencies. Further, Board discussions should not preclude decisions on the system-wide reform, which would take precedence over Board decisions on working methods. Some aspects relating solely to UNICEF, however, could be effected in a short period of time without waiting for United Nations action.

Documentation

42. Most delegations addressing this issue agreed that more efforts should be made to reduce documentation, stressing the responsibility of Board members to try to keep requests for documents to a minimum. It was felt that this could be facilitated by ensuring that the documents requested focused on issues requiring Board action. Suggestions for the further rationalization of documentation included distributing information to Board members between sessions and increasing efforts to biennialize and/or triennialize reporting on specific subjects. The need to improve translations and the importance of executive summaries were also mentioned by several delegations. In general, this section was supported by delegations.

Agenda

43. Most of the discussion centred on the issue of limiting to two the major policy issues or themes for policy decision. Although Board members concurred that some limits were necessary, they wanted to be ensured of some degree of flexibility in instituting this particular recommendation. One delegation added that the Board should design some criteria for the issues to be examined, while

another delegation suggested that the Board could consider how the establishment of selective themes would be tied to the biennialization or triennialization of documentation. The overview of agenda items, with a view to eliminating consideration of those subjects that were no longer relevant and to streamlining further the agenda by grouping the subjects into related fields so as to achieve a logical structure, was welcomed.

Executive governance

44. Several delegations commented on the poor translation of this part of the proposal, which required clarification. Another delegation expressed concern that this particular proposal might limit the prerogative of the Board. The need for more flexible drafting was noted, as well as the need for the decisions to be more succinct. One delegation viewed this as a declaration of good intentions, while another delegation cautioned against involvement in micromanagement.

Consideration of country programme recommendations

45. Delegations shared the view that although the proposals were constructive, since this was such an important issue, further clarification, especially of the issue of holding intersessional meetings of the Programme Committee, and an in-depth review were required. Therefore, there was consensus to postpone the discussion.

46. In this connection, the subject of the effects of the restructuring of the United Nations system on this matter was reintroduced. United Nations reforms, it was felt, could have repercussions on the structure and function of Board deliberations in that the examination of certain items could be subsumed by deliberations in the Economic and Social Council. While useful, minor changes were appropriate, wider changes could not be made until the issue of the United Nations reform was resolved.

Electronic transfer of documentation

47. Although most Board member delegations supported the establishment in UNICEF of a system for the electronic transfer of documentation for the 1994 Executive Board to New York missions and capitals as feasible, as well as for direct electronic messages between UNICEF and Executive Board members and observers, several expressed reservations about its feasibility with regard to developing countries where the level of technical capacity in the area might not be the same as in industrialized countries. Therefore, additional information and an analysis, especially of the cost, were requested.

48. The plenary meeting was adjourned and the Chairman's proposal was sent to the drafting session. When the plenary meeting was reconvened, the Executive Board adopted the proposal, with amendments (E/ICEF/1993/CRP.6/Rev.1) that were read by the Chairman (see chapter III, decision 1993/2).

3. Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work

49. In reviewing the provisional annotated agenda and organization of work for the 1993 regular Executive Board session (E/ICEF/1993/1), many delegations felt that the parallel meetings held at last year's Board were very successful and that perhaps more could be added at this year's session. However, several delegations felt strongly that no more parallel meetings should be added, as countries with smaller delegations could not cover them adequately. One delegation requested that another night meeting be scheduled, but the secretariat indicated that the United Nations limit of 30 meetings had already been reached.

50. It was suggested that more time be allotted for the discussion of policy issues and that these issues be discussed prior to the discussion of papers submitted for review only so as to ensure sufficient time for drafting. In addition, many delegations felt that the clustering of policy issues was to be encouraged whenever possible.

51. Some delegations felt that the general debate could be shortened or biennialized (as is the custom at UNDP). In that way, there would be a general debate only during non-budget years. However, many delegations indicated that this would be totally unacceptable, as their ministers make special trips to the Board for the specific purpose of addressing the general debate and that this is a crucial part of Board proceedings. It was suggested that one way to improve the general debate would be for delegations to respect the 10-minute time-limit. Delegations also were encouraged to arrive promptly for meetings.

52. Some delegations expressed the view that since this was a budget year, the time allotted for the Committee on Administration and Finance (3 days) was inadequate. Another delegation felt that the Committee meetings could begin on Friday, 30 April. It was agreed that agenda items 4 (administrative and programme support budgets) and 5 (global funds programme budgets) would be moved forward to be discussed before the drafting session. With regard to the Programme Committee, it was felt that item 12 (children, environment and development) was allotted too much time and that item 6 (f) (interregional and others) should be subsumed in item 5 on global funds programme budgets.

53. With regard to a question raised the previous day on why the Bureau had requested a report on the Bamako Initiative when the Board had already decided that it was not required, the secretariat replied that some Board members had, subsequent to the 1992 regular session, indeed requested a paper on the Bamako Initiative. In addition, many delegations felt that the Bamako Initiative was an important topic that should remain a separate agenda item. One delegation, however, stated that it would be discussed in the general debate and, therefore, did not warrant a separate agenda item.

54. It was suggested that although the follow-up to the World Summit for Children and children, environment and development were important issues, they would most likely be discussed in the general debate. This would, therefore, shorten the Programme Committee. Several delegations, however, were of the opinion that this was inappropriate.

55. As regards the recent donor evaluation of UNICEF, many delegations expressed regret that this document was not available until 5 February and then in English only. Although several delegations expressed the desire to discuss the document at the regular session, this was met with opposition from those who felt that it had not been submitted in the traditional manner and was not agreed to beforehand by the Board. It was suggested that the evaluation could be discussed under agenda item 16 (UNICEF and reform of the United Nations system). This, too, met with opposition, but it was agreed that the multi-donor evaluation could be discussed at the regular session, under a variety of agenda items, but that the Board would not take a decision on the evaluation, only "take note" of it.

56. In response to a query about whether agenda item 16 was for review or approval, the secretariat responded that UNICEF was requested by General Assembly resolution 47/199 to prepare a report for the Board on the implementation. Therefore, it could be for review or approval. One delegation pointed out that the topic in agenda item 16 was far too broad, and it was agreed to change the title to "UNICEF and the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields".

57. It was suggested that the Executive Director's opening statement, as well as his response to the general debate should be shortened. Most topics are covered amply in the report of the Executive Director.

58. Bearing in mind the discussion the previous day on the Chairman's proposal on Board procedures (E/ICEF/1993/CRP.6), one delegation reiterated that it would be helpful if the presentation of country programmes could be rationalized.

59. It was felt that the time allotted for informal consultations was too limited and that parallel consultations were unacceptable.

60. It was also noted that the subject of global funds appeared under many items and perhaps one of the discussions could be eliminated to save time. The secretariat responded that there was some difference between discussion of the subject under agenda items 3 and 6 (f). While agenda item 3 would address structural aspects of the funds, agenda item 6 would address approval of specific allocations for interregional programmes, along with the approval of allocations for country programme recommendations. However, the secretariat noted that since agenda item 3 addresses the form in which global funds are presented to the Board, a form decided by the Budget Reference Group and already endorsed by the Board, perhaps it could be eliminated.

61. It was further noted that agenda items will take as long as the Board wishes, for it is the Board members who dictate the actual, as opposed to provisional, agenda.

62. It was agreed that the secretariat would prepare a revised agenda and submit it to the Board for adoption at the April session.

63. The Executive Board had before it a provisional list of topics for informal meetings (E/ICEF/1993/L.1), to be held daily from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. during the session. The list included the following items: (a) World Nutrition Conference: outcome and follow-up; (b) Education for all by the year 2000;

(c) Baby-friendly hospital initiative; (d) regional follow-up on NPAs; (e) UNICEF follow-up to donor evaluation; (f) women in development; (g) AIDS; (h) inter-agency cooperation and United Nations reform; (i) Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States: recent developments with respect to children; (j) impact of emergencies on country programmes; and (k) prospects for elimination of selected childhood diseases.

4. Themes of informal meetings

64. As there were nine time slots for the 9 a.m. informal meetings, and 11 topics were suggested in the annotated agenda, the secretariat took note of priorities of delegations.

65. Several delegations felt that parallel informal meetings were inappropriate, and the importance of ensuring that all delegations can participate fully in discussions, which has not been the case in past years, was stressed.

66. It was requested that a given topic be discussed in an informal meeting before it is discussed in committee. It was also suggested that the morning meetings could be an appropriate time for regional reports.

67. Many delegations requested that family planning be added to the list, and one delegation requested that street children be added.

68. The Chairman indicated that, based on Board member comments, the topics contained in paragraph 60 (a), (c), (g) and (k) above were of low priority. The secretariat would take these comments under advisement in making the final selection.

F. Other business

69. A group of countries asked the Executive Director to report at the regular Board session on the implementation by UNICEF of the Secretary-General's request that the number of high-level staff (Assistant-Secretary-General, D-2 and D-1) be reduced. The Executive Director replied that a dialogue was under way with the Secretary-General on the issue, but that actual figures on the reduction of posts had not been presented. He said that the issue would be discussed most appropriately as part of the debate on the proposed budget. The Chairman added that there would be a report on the subject.

70. One speaker said that during the discussion of the future work and procedures of the Executive Board, her delegation had queried the appropriateness of the Bureau's decision to request that the secretariat prepare a report on the Bamako Initiative, when the entire Board previously had decided not to produce such a report. She explained that that position did not in any way qualify her Government's support for the Bamako Initiative or for overall UNICEF support to Africa and that the issue had been raised as one of Board procedure.

71. The Executive Director informed the Board that UNICEF would like to hold a memorial service in honour of the late Audrey Hepburn, former UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, on Friday, 30 April. Ms. Hepburn's family had endorsed the proposal and expressed the hope the contributions would be made to the recently established UNICEF Audrey Hepburn Memorial Fund.

III. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 1993 ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

1993/1. UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

On the recommendation of the Executive Director,

The Executive Board

1. Decides to present the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, established at its 1966 session to honour significant contributions by an institution in a developing country in advancing the well-being of children, and extended in 1988 also to include individuals, to the people and the State of Ceará, Brazil;

2. Approves an allocation of $25,000 from general resources for that purpose.

Decision 1993/2. Future work and procedures of the Executive Board

The Chairman of the Executive Board recommends that:

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decisions 1987/1, 1987/2, 1989/1, 1989/2, 1989/3, 1990/1, 1992/5, 1992/7 and 1992/8 regarding rationalizing and streamlining the work of the Executive Board,

Noting decision 1992/8 regarding implementation of decision 1992/5 and the points made in the preamble to the former,

Decides to improve further its procedures and to rationalize the utilization of time of the regular Board sessions, as follows:

1. Documentation

(a) In order to rationalize and reduce the volume of documentation, the Executive Director should review the existing consolidated list of documents requested for future Board meetings and propose to the Executive Board before the end of the regular session how further to rationalize and to cut down this list;

(b) In creating any new documentation, the Executive Director should take into account the need to prepare shorter and more focused documentation, to concentrate all reporting on issues where action by the Board is required or where there are difficulties that need the Board's attention, and to include concrete recommendations for the consideration of the Board;

(c) The Executive Director should integrate information requests arising from Executive Board decisions into the annual Executive Director's report, wherever feasible;

(d) If regular reporting is needed, this should be done on a biennial or triennial basis to the extent possible;

(e) In accordance with paragraph 1 (a) of decision 1992/5, documents should be distributed officially, and in all working languages, in good time before the opening of a regular session in order to be considered at that session;

(f) The Executive Director should undertake a technical and financial analysis of the electronic transfer of Executive Board documentation, in consultation with the United Nations Documents Control, and bearing in mind comments made by delegates at the 1993 winter organizational session, and report back to the Executive Board as soon as this review has been completed and, in any event, not later than the 1994 winter organizational session.

2. Agenda

(a) Normally, a limited number of major policy issues or themes, as appropriate, for policy decision should be selected by the Executive Board for in-depth consideration at its regular session, thus permitting more focused discussion;

(b) A table should be provided for each regular session of the Executive Board indicating the subjects (including major policy issues or themes) included in the agenda of the previous year, the present year and the two subsequent years, with a view to eliminating consideration of those subjects that are no longer relevant and to streamlining further the agenda of the Executive Board. Subjects should be grouped into related fields so as to achieve a logical structure.

3. Resolutions

The Executive Board should limit as much as possible the enactment of resolutions or decisions to matters directly related to the governance and policies of UNICEF.

4. Consideration of country programme recommendations

The Executive Board recognized the wish of several members to have a careful examination of individual country programme recommendations. The Executive Board agreed that informal discussions on this question would continue, leading to formal consideration at the 1993 regular session, taking into account:

(a) Views expressed at the 1993 winter organizational session;

(b) General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992;

(c) The outcome of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields being undertaken in the General Assembly.